



**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #5
May 1, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

Human disease: As of April 27, 2006, the World Health Organization has confirmed 205 human cases of H5N1 influenza, including 113 deaths. The highlight of the past week regarding this situation was that WHO confirmed the 12 cases which had been reported by Egypt; only four Egyptian cases had previously been confirmed by WHO.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next Pan Flu Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled in June 28th at Expressions/Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- VDH participated in the Virginia Emergency Response Team Exercise (VERTEX). Though this statewide exercise utilized a natural disaster scenario, Command, Control, Communications and Decision making bridged all hazards.
- VDH is conducting a series of Community Based Emergency Response System (CBERS) Isolation and Quarantine Exercises. In addition to Health participants, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Judicial / Legal, Medical Examiner, Hospitals and Mental Health partners have participated.
- On May 9, ABC will air a made-for-TV movie which suggests a Richmond businessman as "patient zero" who infects several dozen airline passengers, scattering around the globe in the network's avian influenza movie.
- Health Districts continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Offices

• Central Region

- District Health Directors and Regional Emergency preparedness and Response (EP&R) staff planned and carried out a pandemic influenza and mass medical casualty forum for local government leaders. Executives from almost all the central Virginia governments attended.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

• Loudoun

- Re-scheduled briefing with State Senator Mark Herring regarding PanFlu activities for 5/3.
- Worked with Inova Loudoun Hospital to develop membership for the hospital PanFlu Work Group (to include public health).
- Met with ValPak representative regarding public awareness inserts on pandemic flu and the MRC to supplement summer education campaign.
- Loudoun PanFlu Preparedness Task Force (LPFPTF) – second meeting on 4/25. Focused on communications toolkits. Working Group of all county agency PIOs to provide input for messages in the toolkit. Goal is to have appointed trusted spokespersons with consistent messages. Requested the healthcare reps to present all relevant policies at the next meeting.
- Briefed the Leesburg Town Council on “Implications of Pandemic Influenza”. Many questions regarding plans, animal surveillance, human surveillance, airport surveillance, and public education. Pledged support to the planning efforts.
- Fire/Rescue is using the VDH DVD to update staff.
- County Government Health Council approved as oversight committee.
- Talking points to be prepared for potential media and citizen contact following the airing of ABC’s “Fatal Contact: Bird flu in America”, May 9th.
- Recruited the ER Director, internist with local medical examiner functions, large group primary care physician, case manager physician, and Infectious Disease physician to the hospital Panflu work group
- Ad posted and initial resumes received for approved temporary position ‘ Health Education Specialist ’
- Continued development of County PanFlu Exercise (Oct ’06).

• Richmond

- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) coordinator attended National Conference.
- Sent out invitations for the MRC Advisory Committee meeting to be held May 24th.
- Two staff members as well as other city employees attended Isolation and Quarantine exercise hosted by VDH.

• Hampton

- Oriented Board of Directors, Riverside Physicians Association (RPA) to avian and pandemic flu. RPA is the Riverside owned collection of primary care practitioners.

• Alexandria

- Joined Alexandria Public School System pandemic planning group.
- Interviewed potential contractors to assist with City pandemic flu planning process.
- Fatality Management Subject Matter group met and created plan outline.
- Medical Surge Subject Group met to evaluate non-hospital surge management.
- *Communication with Public Group* met and to establish communication protocols with non-English speaking populations and other vulnerable groups.

- Quarantine and Isolation Subject Matter Group met with local judges.
- **Chesterfield**
 - Participated in full scale county response exercise, demonstrating LHD staff and issues integration with county emergency management and public safety operations.
 - 20 member team from Chesterfield Health District completed local EOC representative training and planning program.
 - Epi-Rapid Response Team training held.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Presentation to Norton Community Hospital Medical Staff , discussing state/regional and local pan flu preparedness activities; checklist for medical offices distributed (from CDC website); discussed developing local plans/private office practitioners plans considering points presented on the checklist; presented AC P position paper points and discussed their application to local preparedness activities; distributed information on MRC/CERT. Approximately 20 physicians in attendance. Surveys indicated interest in assistance in developing office plans; physicians expressed interest in more involvement in MCO/hospital planning and exercises.
- **Southside**
 - Participated in community PanFlu table-top exercise involving hospital, business, local government, public safety, Red Cross and mental health.
 - Conducted full functional Tamiflu dispensing exercise with shift change. Drive-through model used. This was an all staff exercise and local government partners participated. Exercise was a continuation of previous table-top.
 - First Epidemiology Rapid Response Team meeting held.
 - Health Director delivered a Pan Flu briefing for St. Francis Medical Center medical staff at their monthly meeting.
- **Rappahanock-Rapidan**
 - Held a meeting of the Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee including a brainstorming session and initial planning for District PanFlu Summit.
- **New River**
 - Continue to assist area hospitals' emergency preparedness committees with PanFlu preparedness planning.
 - Continuing dialogue with the school systems' superintendents and coordinating/scheduling workshops for permanent/substitute staff.
 - Assisting VA Tech and Radford University with their preparedness planning goals/objectives.
 - Coordinating with local emergency managers to assist with information program for their respective administrative/employee staff
- **Henrico**
 - Met with Staff, Henrico Doctors Hospital; follow on meetings planned.
- **Hanover**
 - Richmond area health directors lunch meeting with county/city administrators.
 - Members of local flu coordinating committee defined by Charles City government.
 - Met with Chief of Staff, Memorial Regional Medical Center.
 - Letter and DVDs to local boards of supervisors.
 - Re-fax of survey to physicians to generate additional responses.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville)**
 - Local pandemic influenza working groups continuing to meet; identifying additional partners to include in planning initiative.

- Prepared media release to local TV, radio, and news paper concerning second meeting held in Thomas Jefferson Health District for community partners.
- District held second PanFlu planning partner meeting. Approximately 60 community partners attended to hear updates from individual working groups, a facilitated discussion on working group identified communications concerns/issues by Albemarle County Public Information Officer, and discussion on forming a local Pan Flu coordinating council to direct local plan development.
- **Workgroups started meeting in January and each of the five have meet 2 or 3 times to date with membership changing as others are engaged and new concerns addressed.**
- **Public Infrastructure Workgroup** is composed of law enforcement, fire/rescue, local jails, emergency management, public health and other public service provider entities such as utilities. The members reviewed other plans, committed to developing their own agency COOP plans, worked on options for securing and storing stockpiled supplies, shared basic infection control procedures and gathered information on numbers of staff for possible vaccination or other uses.
- **Health/Medical Mass Care & Support Workgroup** includes emergency managers from both hospitals, infection control specialist, CSB, emergency management, UVA MRC, Red Cross, hospice and public health with outreach to long-term and home care providers. Work has focused on surge planning, upgrading and sharing internal facility plans, mass mortality management, home care training and support with research into altered standards of care, ethics and other plans.
- **Business, Retail and Tourism Workgroup** consists of representatives from large and small business, the chamber of commerce and tourism bureau. Focus to date has been on considering electronic communication options, how to engage more companies and sharing information to educate CEOs and the workforce and ways to stimulate internal continuity planning for a pandemic.
- **Educational Institutions Workgroup** involves representatives from city, county and private schools, a physician/parent and UVA School of Nursing and Student Health. Issues have included resident students from out of the area, childcare facilities, ways to facilitate improved basic hygiene in schools, school closures, provisions for poor children, international travel among students and faculty and review of some basic plans to share among all schools.
- **Public Education and Communication Workgroup** includes representatives from UVA MRC, parish nurses, adult educator, homeless advocacy groups, local government PIOs and public health. Discussion has focused on the variety of sources for outreach, identifying where to obtain the information given the many options and discussion about which kind of information to distribute and when.
- **Joint Workgroup** meeting held April 26 and other interested parties have been included so that more than 100 are on the contact list now. Workgroups reported and ways to address important communication concerns from the workgroups were discussed. An improved coordination structure will be developed between workgroups. The Emergency Coordinators for the four rural counties have been invited to involve them and stimulate more planning efforts for those counties.
- Director serves on UVA Health Sciences Center Emerging Diseases Committee which oversees internal UVA pandemic flu planning with development of protocols and procedures for the Medical Center. They have discussed ways to integrate their planning with the larger community.

- Director met with Martha Jefferson Hospital Chief of Medical Staff and the Family Practice Section members to share some concerns about Pan Flu planning. They asked to see specific recommendations from CDC or VDH for how to conduct office triage and infection control during a pandemic.
- Program on Avian Influenza given at Albemarle Co. Medical Society by UVA Virologist who is a WHO consultant. Health Director followed up with a discussion at the February meeting and the Executive Committee appointed two physicians to represent the society in local planning efforts.
- Daily newspaper article on area pandemic flu planning featured an interview with the District Planner discussing progress to date.
- Attended the Great Decisions Program discussion group in Charlottesville where a foreign policy professor from UVA presented on Pandemic Influenza in relation to international cooperation and then lead a discussion on "Steps the U.S. Might Take to Prevent a Pandemic of Influenza". The audience made several suggestions including improving local Public Health infrastructure, enhancing vaccine research and development and fostering financial incentives to ensure adequate vaccine supplies for seasonal influenza vaccine. The District Epidemiologist spoke on local challenges for Pan Flu planning and response.
- Director wrote a longer article on local health care challenges and physician involvement in pan flu planning for the Spring edition of the Albemarle Co. Medical Newsletter which will be sent to all 400 + MDs licensed in the area.
- **Piedmont**
 - District staff attended the Isolation and Quarantine exercise held by the Virginia Department of Health.
 - Pan Flu discussions with Prince Edward, Amelia, and Buckingham School Superintendents.
- **Peninsula**
 - Planning two tabletop exercises in June (tentatively June 15 and 16): one in Newport News and one in Williamsburg. The tabletops will involve local representatives of governments, schools, hospitals, community physicians, business leaders, nonprofit service agencies, and colleges/universities in addressing community planning and response to pandemic influenza and understanding its impact on the community.
 - Provided copies of the "Pandemic Flu" DVD to the five local jurisdictions, which have begun airing it on their community access channels.
 - Director joined the Eastern Region medical consultant and the Hampton Health District director for a briefing to the Board of Directors for Riverside Physician Associates on PanFlu and community physicians' preparedness planning.
 - Met with the James City County administrator, assistant county administrator, fire chief/emergency manager, social services manager, community services manager and others and with the City of Williamsburg fire chief/emergency manager to discuss PanFlu and community preparedness planning.
 - Met with the new special projects manager for York County community services to discuss pandemic influenza and community preparedness planning, especially with respect to aging and disabled residents of the community.
 - Met with the Vice President, Medical Affairs, Sentara Williamsburg Community Hospital, to discuss pandemic influenza and hospital and community physicians' preparedness planning.

- Met with City of Poquoson Manager, emergency planner, school superintendent and school health manager to discuss pandemic influenza and community preparedness planning.
- **Eastern Shore**
 - PanFlu and I&Q presentation by Health Director, Planner and ICP to Shore Memorial Hospital Medical Staff.
 - PanFlu presentation and planning meeting with US Coast Guard in Chincoteague.
 - PanFlu planning budget submitted. Funding will provide health educator for PanFlu presentations, public education campaign with printed materials and inserts / PSAs and local PanFlu summit).
 - Working with Accomack County schools on their PanFlu plan.
 - Monthly Pan Flu planning meetings with health care personnel and quarterly meeting with ES Disaster Preparedness Coalition.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Participated in planning meeting for the VDEM Region 2 exercise coming up in November.
 - District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee met and discussed coordinating various efforts/opportunities for a Pandemic Flu meeting and also discussed community outreach issues.
 - District will hold its Pandemic Influenza Summit on June 22 at the Shenandoah University Health Professions Building in Winchester.
 - Participated in Community I&Q training course in Fredericksburg.
 - Met with the Student Activities Head at Christendom College in Warren County to assist the college in pandemic and general disaster preparedness planning at their request. We will be providing examples from other colleges and materials.
- **Rappahannock**
 - Participated in a pandemic flu exercise at Marine Corps Base, Quantico.
 - The draft pandemic flu plan in review, submitted to the area's five emergency managers and the Pandemic Flu Working Group for comments Working Group goal and objectives were drafted and are also being reviewed.
 - The District is hosting a Community-Based Emergency Response Seminar. There are currently over 130 people signed up to attend.
 - Will be meeting with the Mary Washington Hospital medical leadership and with the Hospital's executive management team later this month.
 - Working with the Hospital's Nursing Center of Excellence to develop outbreak management training.
 - The Director will conduct a CME class on May 26 at Mary Washington Hospital for physicians on the medical aspects of PanFlu.
- **Fairfax**
 - Director gave a presentation on PanFlu to the Fairfax City Council.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Presented overview of PanFlu planning and individual and workplace preparedness to the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting. Delegate Bud Phillips was present as their attorney. The local press was also in attendance. Packets of supporting materials were provided.
 - Contacted Dickenson County Administrator to gather community leaders to meet as the core community planning group for the County (to include the Emergency Services Coordinator, a Board of Supervisor's member, a CPPD representative, the County administrator, and Sheriff).

- Participated in a planning session to prepare for the June 7th Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Flu Summit. Other Virginia representatives included Mt. Rogers and Lenowisco Health Districts, and the SW Regional Trainer and Planner. Sullivan County Regional Health Dept. and Northeast Tennessee Regional office represented Tennessee partners.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Attended Henry County School Health Advisory Board meeting. Discussed PanFlu; distributed CDC Planning Checklist for School Districts; and invited members to be on the Task Force/Planning Committee.
 - Provided Communicable Disease Update to Head Start parents. Also discussed PanFlu, showed VDH's PanFlu video, and distributed CDC Checklist for Individuals and Families.
 - Contacted Local Libraries about possibility of placing VDH PanFlu video/DVD in library branches, along with information about pandemic influenza and emergency preparedness. Library representatives very receptive to the idea.
 - Ongoing - Gathering names of physicians/individuals interested in joining a Community PanFlu Task Force/Planning Committee and will begin contacting soon to arrange an introductory meeting
- **Three Rivers**
 - Conducted two training sessions for the staff of Rappahannock General Hospital, one for physicians and the other for the rest of the hospital staff.
 - Lecture with question and answer time for the community at Rappahannock Community College, Warsaw.
 - Gave overview of planning activities to the Mid-Tidewater medical society in Gloucester.
 - Presented a pandemic flu talk to the Rotary club of Westpoint.
- **Central Shenandoah**
 - Met with the Rockingham Emergency Task Force steering committee to develop a community based ethical approach to providing limited resources to the general public. *Attendees:* City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham Co. - Emergency Management, Administration, Schools and Police, Dept. of Social Services, Community Services Board, VDH, James Madison University, Eastern Mennonite University and Rockingham Memorial Hospital.
 - Met with Augusta Medical Center to discuss plan for a potential Pandemic Flu event. Follow up meeting in June. *Attendees:* CSHD Staff, Medical Director of AMC and top Administration.
 - Presentation at Professional Development Day for Nurses, James Madison University. VDH PanFlu video shown. *Attendees:* JMU and Eastern Mennonite University Nurses, nursing students and nursing faculty throughout the state on collaborating with the communities to deliver immunizations and health messages.
 - Rockbridge Co. Pandemic Influenza Summit scheduled June 5 will engage all Community Emergency Partners. Rockbridge Co., Buena Vista, and Lexington area government and community stakeholders invited.
- **Central Virginia**
 - Community Summit is planned for May 16; wide interest indicated.
 - Met with CMO, Centra Health to discuss engaging local physicians in planning. Little interest has been expressed, so far. CMO has tried to gauge interest among the physician community as well and has found limited interest. Physicians are a key

- stakeholder group for the Summit. We will continue to brainstorm ways of getting local physicians interested and involved.
- District continues to develop communication plan, dispensing site plans with local emergency planners
 - **Crater**
 - Key staff attended and participated in the Regional Isolation and Quarantine training.
 - PanFlu presentation to John Randolph Medical Center Medical Department.
 - Distributing PanFlu related information through our local health departments, community events, and community partners.
 - **Lenowisco**
 - Pandemic influenza planning for private practices and role of private practitioners in hospital/community emergency preparedness presentation to medical staff meeting at Norton Community Hospital.
 - Providers surveyed for interest in assistance in emergency planning for private practices. Approximately 25 physicians attended. Interest in additional workgroups to develop a template for office use.